

COMMENDING SALLY SMITH FOR
EXEMPLARY COMMUNITY SERV-
ICE AND SERVICE AS CHAIR OF
THE CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY
DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the exemplary public service of Sally Smith, a resident of the Chautauqua County town of Pomfret, upon the occasion of her retirement as Chair of the Chautauqua County Democratic Committee.

Sally's dedication to public service has been manifest, and her commitment to the residents of her town and her county has been outstanding.

Sally served for many years as an employee at Fredonia State College. During that time, Sally served as Director of the Region 6 Political Action Committee for the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA). At the same time, Sally served as Chair of her hometown Democratic Party committee.

In January 2003, after her election as First Vice Chair of the Chautauqua County Democratic Committee, Sally was elevated to Chair after the resignation of the incumbent, being elected to that position in full in June of that year. She was re-elected Chair in September 2004.

Sally's tenure as Chair has by all objective analysis been a rousing success. Sally oversaw the re-election of the Chautauqua County Legislature's Democratic Majority in 2003, an election which also saw success for Democrats at every local level, from village trustees to county legislators. In 2004, Sally was part of a coalition of party leaders that helped elect a Democrat to Congress from Chautauqua County for the first time since 1984, which was the last election for Congress won by former Representative Stan Lundine of Jamestown.

Sally has never forgotten her roots as the leader of a rural county. In April 2004, Sally and the Chautauqua County Democrats hosted the New York State Democratic Rural Conference in Jamestown, putting the statewide spotlight on Jamestown and Chautauqua County. Later that year, when Senator JOHN EDWARDS of North Carolina visited the world-renowned Chautauqua Institution to prepare for his the Vice Presidential debate, Sally and other Democrats—many of whom had never participated locally before—organized a Democratic march and rally at Fredonia State College in support of the Democratic ticket.

On a strictly personal level, it has been nothing short of a delight to work with Sally. A consummate professional and someone with a steadfast affection and connection to both her community as well as the Democratic Party, my time in working with Sally Smith has always been characterized by her support for working men and women in Western New York, about the dignity and her refusal to allow her community to be taken for granted.

Her work on behalf of her community has been without fanfare, but has been tremendously effective.

Now in her retired years, Sally and her husband Dan want to enjoy more personal time with friends and family, prompting her to resign her post as Chair, turning over the reins to another great Democrat, Chautauqua County Legislature Chairman Keith Ahlstrom. As Sally leaves active service as County Chair—but remains as Pomfret Town Chair—we must pause to consider the contributions she has made, not just to the Democratic Party in general, but to the people of her community, her county and to western New York as well. Chautauqua County is a better place because of Sally Smith's commitment to public service, and I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to have an opportunity to honor her today.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF SAN ANTONIO MAYOR ED
GARZA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished public service of San Antonio Mayor Ed Garza.

A native of San Antonio, Garza is a graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School, and still lives in the same historic Woodlawn Lake neighborhood where he grew up. He attended the University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University, where he received a Bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture. He has retained his connection with Texas' colleges, serving as an adjunct professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio and at St. Mary's University.

Mr. Garza has had a tremendously productive career in public service. He served two terms as District 7 Representative on the San Antonio City Council, where he focused on economic, urban, and human development. He was elected Mayor of San Antonio, and re-elected in 2003.

Following the attacks of September 11, Mayor Garza collaborated with other local elected officials to create one of the nation's first comprehensive city-county antiterrorism plans, leading CNN to recognize San Antonio as the second most prepared city in the country, after New York. He has worked to ensure that San Antonio remains a defense leader, and to constantly reform city government to make it more efficient and responsive.

Mayor Garza has volunteered his time to advocate for health and fitness in San Antonio. He has helped raise awareness for organizations such as the American Diabetes Association and the Cystic Fibrosis foundation, and has raised money for the Cancer Therapy and Research Center and the San Antonio Children's Shelter.

Mr. Speaker, Ed Garza is an exemplary public servant. His work has made San Antonio safer, healthier, more efficient and more prosperous. I am proud to have the chance to thank him here today for all he has done for his fellow Texans.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
COMMANDER GRADY JAY WIL-
LIAMS

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Commander Williams is a life member of the Sons of AMVETS Squadron 95; and

Whereas, Commander Williams has held all offices at the local level and was instrumental in projects such as Adopt a Highway, Christmas Baskets for the needy, and the 'Thank a Vet' program; and

Whereas, Commander Williams also served as the Sons of AMVETS 12th District as 1st Vice Membership and Commander, during which time he developed a positive rapport with veterans' facilities in Ohio and worked with the program 'Robes for Vets,' which places a warm bathrobe for each veteran in each of the Veterans Affairs facilities in Ohio; and

Whereas, Commander Williams is a loving husband to his wife, Cindy, and father to his children, Britney, Sarah, and Cassie.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District in commending Commander Grady Jay Williams for his unwavering service to the Sons of AMVETS.

A TRIBUTE TO THE GIRL SCOUTS
OF WHISPERING OAKS COUNCIL
WOMEN OF DISTINCTION: KAY
LLEWELLYN, REBECCA
JOWORSKI CORTEZ, THERESE
SCHEY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three outstanding women in my district whose contributions to their communities have been recognized by an outstanding organization in my district.

Kay Llewellyn, Rebecca Joworski Cortez and Therese Schey were named Women of Distinction by the Girl Scouts of Whispering Oaks Council. This prestigious award, bestowed annually for the past 12 years, recognizes three community, business and educational leaders who are role models for young women.

Ms. Llewellyn has taught sixth grade at Pleasantdale Middle School in Burr Ridge for 23 years, specializing in science instruction. She has also counseled young women from less advantaged backgrounds to help them establish educational and career goals. Her advice to young women is simple, yet timeless: "Being true to yourself and your beliefs and morals is never easy. But in the end that's what makes one a stronger person."

Ms. Cortez is a graphic designer with the world renowned Field Museum and has worked with several Chicago museums and the Brookfield Zoo in my District. She has volunteered extensively at Forest Road School in

La Grange Park, especially with sixth grade art classes in developing an annual Art Legacy Project. She believes that "Young women today—and young men, for that matter—need to value themselves and be aware of their self-worth. They need to respect themselves and have the courage to walk away from wrong choices."

Ms. Schey represents the highest level of community service. She has lent her time and talents to several organizations including: the American Legion Robert E. Coulter Post Ladies Auxiliary; the Girl Scouts; the Countryside Women's Club; the Parent and Community Network; and she coordinated a drive to supply American troops in Iraq with a few comfort items, like sun block. Ms. Schey also finds time to serve as a part-time director of the St. Cletus School After Care Program. She tells young women that "You need to have faith, confidence and trust in yourself. Keep yourself informed by reading, use of the Internet and staying aware of what is going on around you."

Mr. Speaker, I salute these three Women of Distinction, and give them my best wishes for continued success as role models for our young people.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to participate in votes on the floor of the House of Representatives on March 8 and 9, 2005. I was absent to attend the funeral of a relative back in South Dakota. I submit this statement today to establish for the record how I would have voted had I been present for these votes.

On March 8, 2005, the House of Representatives held three votes.

The first vote held was on approval of House Journal. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

The second vote was on a motion to suspend the rules and agree to the H.R. 133, a resolution providing funds for continuing expenses of standing and select committees of the House of Representatives during the month of April, 2005. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

The final vote was on motion to suspend the rules and agree to the H.R. 122, a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the study of languages and supporting the designation of a Year of Languages. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

On March 9, 2005, the House of Representatives held five votes.

The first vote held was roll No. 56 on an amendment by Mr. CONAWAY which would have exempted commercial motor vehicle operators working in field operations for the natural gas and oil industry from Federal hours-of-service rules. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

The second vote held was roll No. 57, on an amendment by Mr. MORAN of Kansas to ex-

pand the types of agricultural commodities covered by the bill's exemption from the 2003 hours-of-service regulations to include livestock, food, feed, fiber and other farm products. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

The third vote held was roll No. 58, on an amendment by Mr. OSBORNE of Nebraska that would grant the State of Nebraska the authority to harmonize its vehicle length limits with those of surrounding states during the grain harvest season. I strongly support this amendment and, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

The fourth vote was roll No. 59, on an amendment by Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota that would have prevented States and localities from collecting tolls on exiting highways. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

The fifth vote was roll No. 60, on an amendment by Mr. GRAVES that would have eliminated "vicarious liability" language under certain State laws for motor vehicle rental and leasing companies. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on that question.

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOMEN'S CENTER OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA AND WASHINGTON, DC—ANNUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate The Women's Center of Northern Virginia and Washington DC on the 20th anniversary of its Annual Leadership Conference.

The Women's Center, which celebrated its 30th anniversary last year, has been a resource for women in the workplace from its beginnings. The Center's first conference in 1985 was titled "On the Job Issues for Working Women." Held at the Vienna Community Center, the conference addressed four related areas of professional development: career strategy; development of management skills; networking and mentoring; and work relationships. It was at this event that the Center's hallmark program, The Information and Career Advisory Network (ICAN) was introduced. ICAN makes a customized network of professionals available to each of its participants. As the number of women in management positions grew, so, too, did the scope of the Annual Conference. Recent titles included "The Global Community of Women," "The Economic Equity of Women," "Caregiving in a Time of Change," and "Women Leaders, Changing the Dynamic." With this year's Conference, "Women in Leadership: Your Success Portfolio," the Women's Center continues its legacy of relevance and diversity by addressing the multiple definitions of and opportunities for leadership now available to women.

As the scope and size of the Annual Leadership Conference grew, so did the services of The Women's Center. Founded as a coun-

seling and educational organization in 1974, the Center now offers a wide range of services and programs addressing the psychological, career, financial and legal issues of women and families. Counseling services, including group therapy and support groups, are now offered to women, couples, families and children. The Center's Information and Referral Service, which acts as a resource gateway for local human service issues, handles about 25,000 calls a year. The Center provides over 50,000 hours of direct client services annually, with approximately 75% at reduced or no fee.

In 2004 The Women's Center was named Non-profit Organization of the Year by the Vienna-Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Also in 2004 The Women's Center opened an appropriations-funded, Washington, DC location. This location focuses on psychotherapy/counseling and career-related services. Bilingual, reduced and no-fee services are provided to clients through partnerships with 12 social and human service agencies located throughout the District. The Women's Center is currently serving as the central support organization of the DC Cash Campaign, an initiative providing free tax preparation and asset-building services to the residents of Wards 5, 7 and 8 in the District.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I congratulate The Women's Center on its comprehensive range of services and unique contribution to the community. On the occasion of this 20th Annual Leadership Conference, I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging this outstanding and distinguished organization.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO AURELIA JONES-TAYLOR

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized Black History annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." In fact, Black History had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our Nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Aurelia Jones-Taylor of Coahoma County. In 1989, Ms. Taylor met the challenge to journey to Clarksdale, Coahoma County, MS to assume the position of Executive Director for the Aaron E. Henry Community Health Services Center, Inc. after completion of her training for a community health center director at John-Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland.